Parents: How to Encourage Effective Help

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Parental Overinvolvement

• What is going on
  – Manage details of child’s life
    • Especially school and sports
  – Emotional investment in child’s outcome

• Why?
  – Varied family structures lead to parents who want stability for child – protection
  – Cultural environment of parents who are involved, overprotective, & child-focused
  – Digital connections considered normal

Results of Hovering

• Lower quality parent-child communication
  – Leads to lower family satisfaction

• Parent anxiety leads to anxiety in children
  – Parental control seen as evidence of fearful situation

• Children are less emotionally stable
  – External locus of control

• Young adults exhibit entitlement
The Effect on Schooling

• Focus is on results not on process
  – Both students and parents
  – High stakes testing only complicates
• Control of curriculum shifts from school to parents
• As homework becomes more complicated, parents become more involved and less effective

Parental Concerns with Homework

• “Busywork”
• Too little information on what parents are to do
  – Assumption that parents are to be involved
• Frustration and/or embarrassment at not understanding directions or having the skills to help
  – If not busywork, then the homework is too hard
  – SES/cultural differences

How Homework is Evaluated

• Students, parents and teachers believe homework will help students
• 26% of students, 24% of teachers, and 40% of parents think it is “busywork”
• 29% of teachers report homework is a “major source of stress”
• Parental involvement more positive factor than SES is a negative factor
• Primarily mother’s involvement
Purpose of Homework?

• 3 types
  – Practice, Preparation, and Integration (includes long-term work)
• 4 types
  – Memorization of rules, etc., increase skill speed, deepening understanding of a concept, preparation for following day’s learning
• Does it work?
  – Gains for students who complete homework are between 8% and 31%

How Schools can Control the Homework Process

• Communicate goals and expectations
  – To parents and students
• Develop methods which require parental guidance, not knowledge
• Offer help to parents in developing skills

Partnership Homework

• Regular part of the programme
• Read together – focus on activities
• Involve parents in classroom activities, give parents voice in decisions, genuine effort to reach out to parents
• Link schoolwork with real-life situations
• Show, share, talk
  • homework sheet
• Very clear when homework is to be solo
Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork

- Homework is student's responsibility, parents are supportive
- With family, students demonstrate maths skills, conduct science experiments, share ideas and obtain reactions to written work, conduct surveys or interviews, gather family memories, apply school skills to real life
- [www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/tips/index.htm](http://www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/tips/index.htm)
- [http://spearfish.k12.sd.us/west/Specials/Penny/Teacher%20involve/overview.htm](http://spearfish.k12.sd.us/west/Specials/Penny/Teacher%20involve/overview.htm)

TIPS Process

- Orientation of families
- TIPS activities go home regularly
- Extra time given to ensure family participation
- Assignment no longer than two sides of one page in simple language
- Use readily available materials at no or minimal cost
- Include communication from home to teacher about the exercise
- Treated the same as other homework

Include Parents in Homework

- Overinvolvement is not healthy for children
- Helping parents develop proper involvement helps children learn
- Include parents as part of the process by:
  - Providing instruction for parents
  - Use of rubrics, check sheets
  - Feedback both from home and from school
  - Integral part of programme